

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 5377

S E C R E T JIDDA 5087

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FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AEMR, US, LE

SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: JIDDA 5086

FOLLOWING FOR YOU FROM PRINCE FAHD. FURTHER TO HIS PREVIOUS MESSAGE TO YOU HAS CONTACTED ARAFAT AND JUMBLATT AGAIN. THEY BOTH PROMISED TO DO THEIR BEST TO SOLVE PROBLEM. THEY STATE THEY CANNOT ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY ALONE. THEY SUGGEST YOU APPLY PRESSURE TO SYRIANS AND CHRISTIANS. SAUDI GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE CONTACTS AND EFFORTS WITH THEM. ARAFAT AND JUMBLATT PROMISE THEY WILL CONSENT TO EVACUATION. FAHD NEVERTHELESS WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT HE CAN'T GIVE YOU ONE HUNDRED PERCENT GUARANTEE THAT THEY WILL FOLLOW THROUGH BUT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DO HIS BEST. HE URGES THAT USG DISPLAY PATIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY IN DEALING WITH SITUATION.

AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: SAUDI GOVERNMENT VERY CONCERNED, AND WILL USE EVERY MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO MAKE PLO AND JUMBLATT BEHAVE. THERE IS, HOWEVER, SOME SIGNIFICANCE IN FAHD'S STATEMENT ABOVE THAT HE CAN'T GUARANTEE THEY ARE AMENABLE TO SAUDI INFLUENCE. HE MAY BE FILTERING THEIR REPLIES IN HOPE WE WILL EXERCISE PATIENCE AND FLEXIBILITY. THEIR WORRIES WERE REFLECTED IN PASSING REMARK TO ME TWO DAYS AGO BY PRINCE SAUD TO EFFECT THEY HOPE WE WILL AVOID

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DRASTIC MEASURES.

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